

Remarks

The specification and claims have been amended to overcome the objection regarding the term "caulked".

In regard to the drawings, a replacement drawings sheet was filed with the preliminary amendment on April 22, 2005. Enclosed is another copy of that replacement sheet.

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Landi (US 4,647,125) in view of Roberts (US 6,447,305). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Landi (US 4,647,125) in view of Roberts (US 6,447,305) and Puerner (US 5,007,856). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

Claim 2 has been cancelled and its features have been added to claim 1 with some amendment. In view of page 3, last paragraph of the office action, it is believed that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Though dependent claims 3-15 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

New claims 16-19 have been added above to claim the features recited therein.

In regard to Puerner and its catches, these are simple catches. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a base and a

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mating piece connected to each other between a fixed prelocking position and a fixed final locking position.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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3/16/2006 Clair F. Mann
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